

ACTION INR-00

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	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	GIWI-00	TEST-00	BBG-00	R-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1833

INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

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DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

FRG COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AFGHANISTAN MEPP U.S. MOTASSADEQ
LIBYA KOSOVO;BERLIN

- A. Lead Stories Summary
- B. (Afghanistan) U.S. Plan To Fight Drug Trafficking
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- E. (Germany) Motassadeq Trial
- F. (Germany-Libya) Relations, La Belle
- G. (Balkans) Kosovo's Future

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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A. Lead Stories Summary

HEADLINES

British Researchers Allowed To Produce Cloned Embryos
(Frankfurter Allgemeine)

Hartz Corrections Jeopardize Eichel's Budget (Sueddeutsche Zeitung)

Hartz Compromise: Clement Said To Give In (Die Welt)

Chancellor Increases Pressure On Clement (Frankfurter Rundschau)

Clement Gives In - Hartz Reforms To Be Corrected
(Tagesspiegel)

Red-Green Gives In To Protests (Berliner Zeitung)

Editorials focused on the Hartz reforms, the Motassadeq trial, and German-Libyan relations. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with a story on the meeting in the Chancellery on the Hartz reforms.

B. (Afghanistan) U.S. Plan To Fight Drug Trafficking

1. "Swords Against Ploughshares"

Peter Muench judged in an editorial in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/12):

"Rumsfeld's remarks are certainly right, but they come rather late and are very difficult [to implement]. He has discovered that the Taliban profit from drug money.. But the trade in opium from the Hindu Kush, which is flooding the western markets in the form of heroin, reaches far beyond the pious warriors' southern zones of influence. In the North, East, and West of Afghanistan, many of the regional warlords profit from the deadly stuff. And many of these warlords are U.S. allies. If Rumsfeld is now taking up the fight, he will hopefully also turn his attention to his old Afghan friends.

"But the Americans must not only break the resistance of the drug barons. The fight would also come at an inappropriate time for the ISAF peacekeeping forces. The Bundestag expressly banned German soldiers from intervening in drug trade.. But the fight, which Rumsfeld has now

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announced, is necessary, since drugs are preventing stabilization of the country. Hopefully, the war planners are also keeping in mind that they must give hundreds of thousands of poor farmers a new perspective. Their survival depends on the cultivation of poppies."

C. (MEPP) Arafat

1. "The Looming Vacuum"

Pierre Heumann editorialized in business daily Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf (8/12):

"Despite the recent protests against the corruption of the political leadership in the Palestinian territories and increasing criticism of the Palestinian President, Arafat still has unlimited power. As a result, it is not clear who could succeed the autocrat. He does not even have a deputy. If he resigned, a dangerous vacuum could come about."

2. "Praising The Palestinian Authority"

Martina Doering noted in left-of-center Berliner Zeitung (8/12):

"It sounds unbelievable, but it is true: EU corruption fighters said the Palestinian authorities used the financial aid correctly and did not use them for terrorist attacks or other illegal activities. the EU praises the Palestinian authorities. Didn't the Israeli government provide Europeans with detailed documents? Didn't we read headlines in the German press saying 'Arafat bombs, Europe pays'?..EU member Germany cannot be accused of financing terror, because it does not pay any budgetary aid directly, but it only finances specific projects. The spending of this money is subject to audit. However, Israel, the U.S. and Palestinians who criticize Ararat are also right: There are many politicians in the Authority who are corrupt, there is nepotism and the situation is catastrophic despite enormous international help. They must get the money for weapons from somewhere. The Palestinian head could be involved in financing terror, because he has got money, but not from the EU. In regard to tax revenue and custom duty, today Israel is doing it the same way Europe does it. But for years Israel paid it into one of Arafat's personal accounts."

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3. Center-right Thueringer Allgemeine of Erfurt (8/12) noted:

"Giving [Arafat] the benefit of the doubt; despite an investigation that lasted one year and a half, the EU did not find any evidence that he embezzled European relief funds or spent it on terrorist attacks against Israel. But Arafat can now at best heave a mere sigh of relief. The same is true for Brussels, since doubts remain about the thoroughness of oversight. Two years ago, the EU considered it appropriate to reverse the payments following Israeli accusations. At that time, it was also impossible to present evidence of European taxpayers financing attacks. Corruption and nepotism have now prompted many Palestinians to mount the barricades. General Mussa Arafat, a relative of the president, is almost the personification of corruption. Last months, protests grew and the protesters demanded a legal committee made up of honest men to investigate the accusations and to demand free elections at last."

D. (U.S.) Biometric Passports

1. Centrist Stuttgarter Zeitung (8/12) opined:

"George W. Bush is governing the United States, and fear is governing in the United States. And in the meantime, many things are allowed in the United States that give European data protection commissioners the creeps. Even biometric data of the face is a legitimate means to fight crime in the United States. In a reflex, this may give us creeps, too, and affect mainly those who did not do anything wrong, but they must rely on democratic controls and

on the collected data not being misused, on agencies, companies, or doctors not using them for purposes not intended."

E. (Germany) Motassadeq Trial

1. "The Mysterious Trial"

Hans Leyendecker argued in an editorial in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/12):

"Even though the trial of Mounir el Motassadeq has only just begun, it is foreseeable that the accusation of

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complicity in mass murder is not tenable. Does this mean, the Federal Court of Justice, the Higher Regional Court in Hamburg, and Germany have lost?. When Ramzi bin al-Shibh was still at large, he knew that his friend was arrested. But this does not necessarily mean that he lied when the Americans questioned him, but his statements resemble the mystery of the Sphinx. Nevertheless, they must be taken seriously since other evidence is not available, something which is not very easy. Motassadeq's lawyer pointed out that bin al Shibh's statement was produced under torture. This is likely to be the case, unfortunately. But what would Motassadeq have said if he had been put under illegal pressure? This is another mystery.

"Over the past few months, Interior Minister Schily and Justice Minister Zypries and Prosecutor-General Nehm tried to convince the Americans that bin al-Shibh should appear as a witness in a German court. This was....correct as far as the law and policy is concerned, but it was also very nave. If such a man is under the CIA's wings, he is no longer within easy reach - not even for the U.S. judiciary or a Senatorial committee. These are the rule in the intelligence business.. The Motassadeq case is not a showpiece or a bad moment for German justice. The rule of law does not inevitably mean justice in an individual case."

2. "Files To The Facts"

Frank Jansen editorialized in centrist Der Tagesspiegel of Berlin (8/12):

"Annoyance is now mixing with up with confusion.. For years, German agencies tried to get the interrogation minutes of key figures of 9/11 and now.all of a sudden, exonerating documents are faxed to the Motassadeq trial.. Are U.S. agencies playing games with German justice authorities?. We can only guess as to the real intentions of the United States. It may be that the Bush administration considers the Motassadeq and the Mzoudi trial lost. In addition, U.S. agencies would have to show their true colors in the United States, too. In Virginia, the trial against Zacarias Massaoui has been going on and demands have been raised to summon bin al-Shibh as a witness. But a lengthy trial could also become unpleasant for the United States. Motassadeq's lawyers want to make the situation in U.S. prison camps like Guantnamo a great issue.. A kind of German anti-torture tribunal with an international media reaction would be embarrassing for the Bush administration.. Do the U.S. agencies now want to give the judges in Hamburg a quick out? The court has only

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little scope of action. The United States continues to refuse to allow bin al-Shibh's questioning, and the judges are hardly able to review exonerating statements despite all doubts about the credibility of terrorists. What else can the court say but to give the benefit of the doubt?"

3. "On The Wrong Side"

Business daily Financial Times Deutschland of Hamburg (8/12) argued:

"What is the reason for the United States to do the business of defense lawyers in the Hamburg terrorist trials?. The U.S. Justice Department summarized the statement of two Al Qaida leaders, saying Motassadeq did not know about the 9/11 plans.. But what can German justice authorities do with such tidbits that arrived at the court after the opening of the trial and that are now messing up the beginning of the trial? In the previous trial of Abdelghani Mzoudi there was a prompt reaction: he was acquitted. Now the judges in the Motassadeq trial are tormented with the question of the value of the [U.S.] information. It is possible that bin al-Shibh covers Mzoudi and Motassadeq. But in order to prove the alleged mastermind of the terrorist attacks a liar, the court should really see him. But this is what the U.S. agencies refuse to allow. That is why they should not be surprised if, in the end, there will be a judgment they do not like."

4. Center-right Badische Neueste Nachrichten of Karlsruhe (8/12) had this to say:

"It is already problematic enough to prove that Islamist Motassadeq had links to Al Qaida, but these painstaking efforts are now even impeded by the largest democratic state in the world. Despite the understanding for the special situation the U.S. investigators are in, the overriding interest should be to do everything to get at the subversive activities surrounding 9/11 legally. This would be the only way to meet democratic, freedom-loving values that have characterized our state order - and that give religious fanatics the creeps."

5. Left-of-center Nuernberger Nachrichten (8/12) argued:

"The lawyers rightfully pointed to the fact that all statements of the two alleged Motassadeq accomplices are suspected of having been produced under torture. The cruel pictures of tortured and humiliated U.S. prisoners in Iraq

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and Afghanistan have caused a conflagration that destroys U.S. credibility. And the behavior of the U.S. authorities is not suited to restore lost confidence. They are interested in Motassadeq's condemnation, but it seems to be even more important that bin al-Shibh and Mohammed [Sheikh Khalid] get no chance of letting out something in a German court about the way the U.S. intelligence services treat other people."

6. Centrist Mitteldeutsche Zeitung of Halle (8/12) said:

"If the background were not that serious, we should talk about a legal burlesque. At the request of Germany for evidence in the trail against alleged terrorist Mounir el Motassadeq, U.S. agencies sent a fax with the statements of imprisoned Al Qaida members. But the question of guilt cannot be clarified in a satisfying way, since U.S. authorities massively obstruct the search for the truth. We can only speculate on the reasons, but it is mainly the United States that likes to accuse Germany of being too lax in the fight against terrorism. We could now reply: Those who do not support the rule of law, should not expect any miracles."

F. (Germany-Libya) Relations, La Belle

1. "Qadhafi's Lure"

Rudolph Chimelli commented in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (8/12):

"Every quarrel must end sometime, and if the Leader of the Revolution wants to return to the right path, we should allow him to do so. But does he really want that? The U.S. wants his intelligence services to help fight Arab terrorists. These Islamists, who hate America, also wanted to kill Qadhafi. The enemy of your enemy is your friend. The U.S. is therefore ready to ignore certain issues - but not everything. Washington's sanctions were reduced and not lifted. The U.S. has not deleted Libya from the list of countries that support terrorism."

2. "Bizarre Changes"

Centrist Der Tagesspiegel of Berlin (8/12) editorialized:

"The speed of German policy makers planning Chancellor Schroeder's visit to Tripoli and providing Hermes securities

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for the German companies makes clear that Germany has serious economic interests and not just noble strategic thoughts. The German economy is about to go to North Africa. This should not be criticized in and of itself, but the examples of China and Russia show that the German Chancellor has repeatedly ignored his claim of being a moral power when there is a conflict between human rights and economic interests."

3. "Hands Off Qadhafi"

Peter Scholl-Latour argued in mass-circulation, right-of-center tabloid Bild-Zeitung of Hamburg (8/12):

"Should we forget Qadhafi's many terror acts because of his compensation payments for the La Belle victims. Should the Chancellor travel to Tripoli? There is no doubt that Qadhafi is the head of state who is responsible for most terror acts. He committed attacks across the world, from Northern Ireland to the Philippines. He was as merciless as Iraq's former dictator Saddam. Qadhafi has not taken the line of least resistance because he has become philanthropic, but because he wants to develop his oil business. Above all, he feared Saddam's fate and he was badly frightened by the 1986 U.S. attacks in which he lost his adopted daughter. His promises to push for a democratization of the Islamic world are ridiculous, because nobody in the Islamic world takes him seriously. Arabs even mock him because of his bizarre appearance. Therefore: Hands off this fraud."

G. (Balkans) Kosovo's Future

1. "Challenge"

Daniel Riegger commented in left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau (8/12):

"All discussions about options for the future of the Kosovo are mired. Should it become a permanent international protectorate with Serbia or should it be made independent, which poses the danger that the province falls apart? Both alternatives look like a choice between two evils. The danger is that ethnic conflicts erupt and spread to neighboring countries. We lack new ideas for Kosovo's future in a united Europe. The EU plays a decisive role in this concept, because it can make attractive offers to

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everybody involved. It should lure Serbia and Montenegro with EU membership, making it dependent on constructive cooperation in resolving the Kosovo conflict. The neighbors Macedonia and Albania could also be made responsible. We need a creative competition for the best ideas for Kosovo, and a self-confident EU must offer attractive rewards."

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